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(71) Applicants (for all designated States except US): BEHRING DIAGNOSTICS GMBH [DE/DE]; Postfach 11 49, D-35001 Marburg (DE). NEW YORK UNIVERSITY [US/US]; 70 Washington Square, S., New York, NY 10012 (US).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): FLECKENSTEIN, Bernhard [DE/DE]; Schlaifhausen 228, D-91369 Wiesenthau (DE). ALBRECHT, Jens-Christian [DE/DE]; Fichtenstrasse 61, D-90763 Fürth (DE). NEIPEL, Frank [DE/DE]; Maria-Gebberstrasse 17, D-91080 Uttenreuth (DE). FRIEDMAN-KIEN, Alvin [US/US]; Apartment 2-3A, 1 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10010 (US). HUANG, Yao-Qi [US/US]; Apartment 7E, 333 East 30th Street, New York, NY 10016 (US).

(74) Common Representative: BEHRING DIAGNOSTICS GMBH; Patente und Lizenzen, Postfach 11 49, D-35001 Marburg (DE).

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(57) Abstract

The present invention relates to viral interleukin-6 (v-IL-6), which can be obtained by recombinant expression of the DNA of human herpesvirus type 8 (HHV-8), and which may be used in diagnosis and treatment of human diseases such as kaposi sarcoma, Castleman's disease, multiple myeloma, kidney cell carcinoma, mesangial proliferative glomerulonephritis or B cell lymphoma.